

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Rabies in Wild Animals

There is no direct evidence as to when rabies first appeared within California, but Dr. George Lyman in his book, "John Marsh, Pioneer," refers to the presence of rabies in dogs and to cases of hydrophobia" cared for by Dr. Marsh in the early forties. This pioneer physician lived in the vicinity of the present community of Brentwood, in Contra Costa County, and he was the only practitioner of medicine in this extremely sparsely populated district. He is known to have traveled at least 75 miles in order to care for patients in his extensive practice.

In 1909, a school teacher of Morgan Hill, in Santa Clara County, went on an outing with three young boys to Coyote Creek, several miles east of Morgan Hill. The three boys were bathing in the stream when a lioness appeared suddenly, attacking one of the boys, striking him with her claws and leaving wounds in his scalp and ear. The teacher ran to his assistance and the animal jumped upon her, knocking her down. In an effort to prevent attacks on her head and face, she raised her left arm and attempted to jab the lioness with a hatpin. The teacher was badly wounded, her left arm being mangled from bites and scratches, with gashes on the right arm, leg and back. There were also scratches and abrasions on her head and face. Seven weeks later, after an apparently uneventful recovery, the woman was taken violently ill with spectacular symptoms and

died within one week. The boy, who was first attacked by the lioness, returned to his home in Santa Cruz, where he died, with the cause of death pronounced as tetanus.

These cases were brought to public attention in 1923 by Dr. Tracy I. Storer, now Professor of Zoology in the University of California College of Agriculture at Davis. Fourteen years after the occurrence, he painstakingly resurrected all the presumptive data including reports of physicians who had attended one of the cases. It was agreed that the cause of death was rabies and not tetanus. The incubation periods and other factors virtually proved the diagnosis. At that time, laboratory service for the diagnosis of rabies was not readily available; and, while the evidence is purely circumstantial, there is every indication that the mountain lion that attacked these individuals was suffering from rabies.

The first recorded appearance of rabies in California dogs was in Pasadena in 1899. At various times suspected cases in wild animals were reported after 1899; but it was not until 1915, when an extensive outbreak of the disease occurred in Modoc and Lassen counties, that the prevalence of rabies in the wild animals of California was proved. The reports of rabies in northeastern California in 1915 included the following comments relative to rabies in coyotes:

"One coyote came into a rancher's yard, passed through a flock of turkeys, apparently without notice-

ing them, and was killed by the rancher at his very door step.

"Another one came into the yard, biting and attacking several chickens, snapping at everything he saw, and after being killed, it was found that his stomach contained nothing but bits of wood.

"Mr. Sans, of the United States Biological Survey, reports that several trains in Nevada have recently run over six coyotes that, at different times, had gotten on the tracks while biting and snapping at the locomotive.

"While in an automobile in the Surprise Valley, Mr. Sans states that he passed a herd of cattle and saw a coyote in the midst of the herd, biting and snapping at the cattle. When he stopped the machine, the coyote ran at it and was shot while within ten feet of the machine. This head, upon examination, proved positive for rabies. Five animals in the herd died of the disease.

"In another instance, a coyote chased a boy into the yard. He slammed the gate just in time to save himself, and the coyote began to gnaw and bite at the pickets. It was shot, and upon bacterial examination, the case proved positive for rabies.

"In another place, a coyote ran into a railroad roundhouse and attacked an employee. It was killed before biting the man. This case was proved bacteriologically also.

"A government surveyor in Nevada was bitten at night by a coyote that ran into his tent. An examination of this animal's head also proved that it was a positive case of rabies.

"In a small town in Nevada, a coyote ran into a bunkhouse, jumped on a man's bed, tearing and biting at the covers. The man saved himself by pulling the covers over his head and calling for help. Before the coyote was killed, four dogs, three hogs and one horse were bitten, and later died of rabies."

During the past fifteen years, 1922 to 1937, cases of rabies in the following numbers of wild animals have been reported to the California State Department of Public Health:

Coyotes	25
Skunks	5
Foxes	2
Raccoons	2

It is reasonable to assume that many cases of rabies have occurred in wild animals, and that these figures represent only a few of the cases that have actually occurred. It would seem, in fact, that rabies is primarily a disease of wild animals and that the dog population has contracted the disease through contact with carnivorous animals living in the wild.

The recent occurrence of rabies in a "bobcat" in Colusa County indicates the importance of observing possible cases of rabies in wild animals at the present time. In this instance, a wildcat is said to have suddenly appeared from a roadside and leaped upon the hood of a school bus carrying seven children. The animal scratched and tore at the windshield before falling from the machine. It is said to have sunk its teeth into one of the front tires and was rendered unconscious by the force of its contact with the front wheel of the bus. One of the older students cut the throat of the animal with his pocket knife. The head was sent to the State Laboratory for examination, where positive results were obtained. Because of the fact that the boy's hands bore abrasions, he is being given the Pasteur treatment for the prevention of rabies.

Reports of suspected cases in mountain lions in several districts of the state have been received recently, and there would seem to be justification at the present time for taking proper safeguards against attacks by rabid animals in the outlying districts of the state. Ordinarily, wild animals shun man and his habitations; but, when rabies is epidemic, it is safer to exercise ordinary precautions against attack.

RABIES UNDER QUARANTINE

Rabies in animals continues in epidemic proportions in the southern part of California. A total of 149 cases was reported from the following counties: Alameda, Fresno, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Ventura and Yolo. Investigations were made in various localities in Southern California of the rabies situation; namely, Riverside County, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles and surrounding territory. In Riverside County a child was seen who had been severely bitten on the cheek by a rabid dog. Numerous conferences were held in Los Angeles County relating to the application of a state quarantine on certain areas of the county. A state quarantine order was requested and issued February 17th covering all of the county territory with the exception of the Angeles forest and the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, Vernon, South Pasadena, Beverly Hills, San Fernando, Avalon and Santa Catalina Island. In accordance with the provisions of the Rabies Act, this quarantine order was modified February 24th.

Many a man fails to become a thinker for the sole reason that his memory is too good.—*Maxims, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche.*

ACTIVITIES IN VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL

Drugs Distributed

During February, more than fourteen thousand ampules of drugs for treatment of syphilis were distributed to private physicians, whose patients could not afford to pay for same, health officers and clinics. These drugs were arsenicals and bismuth.

Organization

Through the sponsorship of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, 13 lectures on the control of venereal diseases were given and there were 17 showings of the film entitled "Syphilis, Its Nature, Prevention and Treatment." Inquiries were sent to employers relative to the distribution of pamphlets to employees and the possible provision of lecture service. Preliminary arrangements were made for the participation of other junior chambers of commerce in the campaign against venereal diseases.

Conferences

The chief of the bureau participated in a series of nine conferences for public health nurses at San Jose, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Riverside, Visalia, Modesto, Sacramento, Chico and Santa Rosa. A lecture was given on venereal disease control before the senior class of Stanford Medical School.

Educational Activities

More than fifty-five thousand pieces of literature pertaining to the prevention and control of venereal diseases were distributed by the bureau during February. More than seventeen thousand report forms were distributed and more than one thousand enameled posters were placed in public toilets during the month.

Clinic Activities

Final arrangements for the development of a clinic in Fresno were concluded during the month, and it began to function on a reorganized basis. In addition, a diagnostic clinic in the Health Center was completed and laboratory facilities made available during the month. Arrangements were made for the establishment of a clinic in the city of San Bernardino. The building selected was approved and the provision of equipment was undertaken. The program for Santa Barbara County was further reorganized and plans formulated for definite activities during March. A number of other clinics throughout the State were visited and plans for extension of clinic facilities furthered.

Reporting of Cases

During February, 1755 cases of syphilis and 1185 cases of gonorrhea were reported. This compares

with 828 cases of syphilis and 889 cases of gonorrhea reported during February, 1937.

Laboratory Activities

In the State Laboratory 8207 Kahn and 1939 Wassermann tests for syphilis were made during February. In addition, 360 gonococcus smears were examined.

PASADENA'S HEALTH HAPPENINGS

The annual report of the Pasadena Health Department for 1937 is issued under the title "Health Happenings—An Informal Story of the Health of Our City." The publication is unique and indicates the prestige of the health officer, Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, as an educator in public health.

The index does not simply refer to the pages upon which data may be found but constitutes, in itself, a summary of the high lights in Pasadena's public health in 1937. It reads as follows:

Expenditures: per capita, health department: 59¢; per capita, all health agencies: \$1.43. Population: 1930 census 76,086. Local estimate, 82,532. Birth rate: 10.1; infant mortality, 38.4; stillbirth rate, 3.2; maternal mortality, 2.4; death rate, 12.4; automobile accident death rate, 24.2; lobar pneumonia death rate, 26.7; tuberculosis death rate, 44.8; preschool children immunized against diphtheria, 60 per cent; smallpox vaccinations, 3,500; syphilis and gonorrhea, 76 per cent increase in cases reported; prenatal conference attendance, 1,589; child hygiene conference attendance, 7,464; nursing visits, 15,238; sanitary inspections, 12,814; milk consumption, daily per capita, 0.9 pints; milk, percentage pasteurized, 55 per cent; laboratory examinations, 27,384.

The report is illustrated attractively and is printed in modern style. It reflects great credit upon the health officer and the Municipal Printing Department of Pasadena which handled the mechanical work in the printing of the report.

SMALLPOX MORE PREVALENT

The incidence of smallpox increased considerably during February. Cases were reported in the following counties: Contra Costa, Fresno, Imperial, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Riverside, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne. A total of 164 cases was reported.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending March 19, 1938

Chickenpox

1049 cases: Alameda County 7, Alameda 2, Albany 12, Berkeley 17, Oakland 43, San Leandro 4, Plymouth 1, Butte County 9,

Calaveras County 2, Colusa County 1, Williams 1, Contra Costa County 9, Pittsburg 1, Walnut Creek 6, Crescent City 19, Fresno County 4, Willows 9, Imperial County 3, Calxico 6, Kern County 11, Kings County 3, Hanford 5, Los Angeles County 103, Alhambra 7, Azusa 8, Burbank 1, Compton 8, Covina 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 26, Huntington Park 8, Inglewood 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 32, Los Angeles 159, Manhattan 5, Monrovia 2, Pasadena 3, Pomona 6, San Fernando 3, Santa Monica 19, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, Lynwood 1, Hawthorne 4, Monterey Park 1, Signal Hill 1, Bell 7, Gardena 2, Madera County 6, Chowchilla 11, Merced County 2, Orange County 7, Fullerton 3, Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 28, Riverside County 32, Banning 1, Riverside 3, Sacramento 22, North Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 10, Ontario 1, Redlands 5, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 16, Chula Vista 1, Coronado 9, National City 4, San Diego 24, San Francisco 74, San Joaquin County 14, Lodi 3, Manteca 2, Stockton 7, San Luis Obispo County 2, Arroyo Grande 1, San Mateo County 4, Daly City 5, South San Francisco 7, Santa Barbara County 15, Santa Barbara 11, Santa Maria 5, Santa Clara County 5, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 6, Vallejo 1, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 34, Modesto 5, Corning 9, Tulare County 21, Dinuba 2, Exeter 2, Lindsay 2, Sonora 3, Ventura County 17, Oxnard 1, Santa Paula 5, Ventura 2, Yolo County 3.

Diphtheria

34 cases: Oakland 1, El Cerrito 1, Richmond 1, Humboldt County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 16, Gardena 1, Mendocino County 1, Santa Ana 1, Corona 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 1, National City 1, Santa Clara County 1, Mountain View 1.

German Measles

44 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Oakland 1, Walnut Creek 1, Orland 3, Kings County 3, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 4, Whittier 1, Maywood 2, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento County 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 7, San Joaquin County 1, Lodi 2, Tulare County 1.

Influenza

57 cases: Orland 5, El Centro 1, Kern County 12, Kings County 3, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 14, Merced County 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 2, San Francisco 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Paso Robles 3, Menlo Park 1, Santa Clara County 2, Corning 4, Tulare County 3.

Malaria

4 cases: Riverside County 1, Chula Vista 1, California 2.*

Measles

681 cases: Alameda 1, Albany 1, Oakland 2, Fresno County 14, Orland 13, Imperial County 1, Imperial 4, Kern County 137, Bakersfield 24, Delano 3, Kings County 23, Hanford 6, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Covina 1, Glendale 2, Glendora 4, La Verne 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 21, Pomona 17, South Gate 1, Maywood 1, Madera County 3, Merced County 8, Gustine 1, Merced 5, Orange County 15, Anaheim 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Laguna Beach 1, Placentia 10, Riverside County 58, Corona 1, Hemet 22, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 3, Ontario 13, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, Upland 2, San Diego County 1, San Diego 49, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 9, Manteca 1, Stockton 1, Santa Barbara County 20, Palo Alto 6, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 3, Modesto 4, Turlock 17, Tulare County 61, Exeter 4, Lindsay 25, Porterville 2, Ventura County 9, Fillmore 1, Oxnard 16, Santa Paula 8, Ojai 1, Yolo County 1, Woodland 2.

Mumps

646 cases: Alameda 15, Albany 1, Berkeley 6, Oakland 64, San Leandro 5, Contra Costa County 4, Fresno County 17, Reedley 1, Calxico 1, Kern County 43, Bakersfield 5, Los Angeles County 35, Alhambra 1, Arcadia 1, Compton 4, Glendale 11, Huntington Park 4, Long Beach 25, Los Angeles 29, Montebello 10, Pasadena 5, Pomona 11, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 9, Santa Monica 9, South Gate 1, Maywood 2, Bell 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 1, Madera 1, Mendocino County 7, Willits 1, Napa County 1, St. Helena 7, Orange County 4, Orange 1, Santa Ana 2, Laguna Beach 1, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 16, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 42, National City 7, San Diego 19, San Francisco 32, San Joaquin County 8, Lodi 1, South San Francisco 2, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Barbara 9, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 51, San Jose 7, Santa Cruz County 1, Santa Cruz 3, Dixon 14, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 5, Modesto 9, Oakdale 2, Sutter County 1, Corning 1, Tulare County 41, Dinuba 4, Porterville 4, Ventura County 3, Fillmore 1, Davis 1, Woodland 1, Marysville 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

93 cases: Colusa County 5, Fresno County 1, Orland 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 14, Compton 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 35, Pasadena 2, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 3, Whittier 1, Lynwood 1, Madera County 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 2, Sacramento 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 5, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, Tulare County 2, Dinuba 1, Ventura County 1.

Scarlet Fever

247 cases: Alameda County 2, Oakland 4, Gridley 1, El Cerrito 2, Richmond 4, Fresno County 5, Reedley 1, Holtville 1, Imperial 2, Kern County 4, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 7, Lassen County 1, Susanville 4, Los Angeles County 16, Alhambra 2, Burbank 1, Culver City 2, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 2, Long

Beach 6, Los Angeles 43, Pasadena 3, Redondo 4, San Marino 1, Torrance 2, Lynwood 3, South Gate 3, Madera County 1, Merced County 1, Monterey County 2, Pacific Grove 2, Napa 1, Orange County 4, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 9, Placentia 1, Riverside County 2, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 2, Ontario 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, Upland 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 16, San Joaquin County 8, Lodi 7, Manteca 5, Stockton 4, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo County 3, Daly City 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 3, Gilroy 4, Los Gatos 1, Palo Alto 1, Santa Cruz County 2, Watsonville 3, Sonoma County 4, Stanislaus County 3, Oakdale 2, Sutter County 1, Exeter 1, Tulare 1, Visalia 1, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 2, Yolo County 1.

Smallpox

63 cases: Fresno County 1, Imperial County 1, Kern County 6, Kings County 3, Susanville 1, Los Angeles County 9, El Monte 2, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 8, Pasadena 1, Madera County 4, Merced County 1, Tulare County 19, Dinuba 5, Visalia 1.

Typhoid Fever

9 cases: Oakland 1, Imperial County 1, Placer County 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, Shasta County 2.

Whooping Cough

551 cases: Alameda County 5, Alameda 2, Berkeley 8, Oakland 36, San Leandro 4, Butte County 7, Calaveras County 2, Colusa County 3, Contra Costa County 9, Fresno County 6, Kingsburg 1, Reedley 1, Kern County 5, Bakersfield 1, Taft 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 13, Alhambra 4, Burbank 1, Compton 4, Glendale 1, La Verne 2, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 36, Pasadena 3, Santa Monica 3, Lynwood 12, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 4, San Rafael 2, Merced County 1, Merced 1, Monterey County 6, Orange County 3, Santa Ana 5, Plumas County 4, Riverside County 3, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 72, Rialto 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 17, Chula Vista 3, National City 11, La Mesa 3, San Diego 27, San Francisco 59, San Joaquin County 18, Lodi 12, Manteca 3, Stockton 22, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo County 3, Daly City 1, Redwood City 1, San Bruno 1, Santa Clara County 44, Palo Alto 19, San Jose 1, Siskiyou County 4, Dixon 1, Tulare County 2, Sonora 1, Ventura County 7, Fillmore 1, Yolo County 4, Woodland 3.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

3 cases: El Centro 1, San Francisco 1, Stockton 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

3 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, San Francisco 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

12 cases: Los Angeles 8, Mill Valley 1, San Francisco 3.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case: San Fernando.

Pellagra

2 cases: Bell 1, San Francisco 1.

Poliomyelitis

6 cases: Oakland 2, Kern County 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego County 1, Shasta County 1.

Tetanus

4 cases: Alameda 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Riverside 1.

Trachoma

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Riverside County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Monterey 1, Orange County 1.

Rabies (Human)

One case: Los Angeles.

Jaundice (Epidemic)

7 cases: Berkeley.

Food Poisoning

13 cases: San Francisco.

Undulant Fever

6 cases: Butte County 1, Imperial County 1, Long Beach 2, Napa County 1, Sonoma County 1.

Tularemia

One case: Kern County.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

2 cases: Kern County.

Septic Sore Throat

2 cases: San Diego 1, Mountain View 1.

Rabies (Animal)

57 cases: Colusa County 1, Fresno County 2, Fresno 4, Kern County 3, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 10, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 16, Pasadena 2, Santa Monica 1, Lynwood 1, Merced 1, Riverside County 2, San Diego 1, Santa Clara County 5, Mountain View 2, San Jose 1, Sunnyvale 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.